

REMARKS

In the Office Action of July 25, 2008, all of the pending claims (claims 1-6 and 19-25) were rejected as unpatentable over one of Itoh (USPN 5,734,483) in view of Yamamoto et al. (USPN 6,943,922), Itoh in view of Yamamoto et al in further view of Hergeth (USPN 6,888,083), or Itoh in view of Yamamoto et al. and Hergeth in further view of Rich et al. (USPN 4,865,038). Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the amendments and arguments herein are respectfully requested.

The Office Action cites Itoh, col. 7, lines 8-18, as disclosing a carriage operable to travel along a first direction (along a document line) and a second direction (downward). Referring to Fig. 2 of Itoh, the second/downward direction is away from the underside of the contact glass 24 and the glass platen 12 so that the rollers 30 never contact the gap between the two. "Thus, no shock is applied to the image sensor 15 and the carriage 14, providing a constant level of a focal point over a long time" (Itoh, col. 7, lns. 41-44). Thus, in Itoh the image sensor moves in only one direction that is parallel to the contact glass/glass platen. The other direction (the second/downward direction) is perpendicular to the contact glass/glass platen plane.

The present application discloses a scanner having a carriage that moves in two directions within a plane that is parallel to the transparent platen. In other words, with reference to FIG. 1 of the present application, the carriage may move forward, rearward, to the left, and/or to the right. This feature is discussed at least in ¶¶ 0004, 0011, and 0015 of the present application.

Independent claims 1 and 19 of the present application have been amended to recite that both the first and second directions are within a plane that is parallel to the transparent platen. For example, claim 1 has been amended as follows:

(Currently Amended) A scanner, comprising:
a housing;
a transparent platen atop the housing for receiving an object to be scanned;
a carriage operable to travel along a first direction and a second direction, wherein the first and second directions are not co-linear and are

within a plane that is substantially parallel to the transparent platen, the carriage comprising:

a light source for illuminating the object; and

a rectangular photodetector array for simultaneously detecting light intensity of multiple scan lines, the rectangular photodetector array comprising more than three rows of photodetectors.

Neither Itoh nor any of the other cited references disclose a carriage (or image sensor) that moves in two directions that are both parallel to the glass platen. Also, no motivation exists for modifying any of the cited references to move a carriage in two directions parallel to a glass platen. Thus, it is believed that claims 1, 19, and their dependent claims are allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

Therefore, in view of the above remarks, we respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

If for any reason the Examiner is not able to allow the application, he is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

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